

December 5, 2003

Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
STB Finance Docket 34075  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington D.C 20423-0001

STB Finance Docket No. 34075 – Environmental Comments  
*Six County Association of Governments - Construction and Operation Exemption - Rail  
Line between Levan and Salina, Utah*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I appreciated very much the opportunity to provide input in to the propose Central Utah shortline Railroad from Levan to Salina Utah. I did attend the public scoping meeting hosted by Phillis Johnson Ball.

I have also been involved with the private land owners sub committee as part of the Six County AOG rail road project. I have had the opportunity to provide input into the discussions about were the alignment ought to go. I am very pleased that the proposal shows the alignment going west of Yuba Reservoir. I was part of the group from the Fayette Area that proposed the western alignment to reduce the effects on or farm and community.

Of great importance to us is the improvement in the safety factor involved removing the coal trucks from the highway. We have always been so concerned, as the trucking route goes directly past our elementary, high school, and city park. We have seen accidents involving the trucks, and they are always serious. Having our children be able to travel to and from school and church activities without these trucks on the highway would be a great improvement.

We support the concept of the railroad as it will benefit our community through a greater tax base, help retain jobs in our community, and add greater possibilities to the economic development of our community.

We are fourth and fifth generation farmers here in Fayette, and want to retain our rural lifestyle and the ability to make a living here. We farm about 2000 acres and have 1500 head of livestock, and have a lot invested in our family business. We are in support of anything that can help us to continue to earn our livelihood and we do see some benefits coming from the railroad.

Again, we are very concerned that the proposal stay on the west side of the valley. We are definitely opposed to the eastern alignment, which would cause many difficulties for us including: access form highway 28, displacement of irrigations systems would severely affect our ability to irrigate fields, fragmentation of fields would make it very difficult to harvest crops with

would seriously affect or ability to farm. We support the proposed western alignment that was shown on the maps at the public scoping meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Bowns". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Bowns,

Bown Dairy